

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH/EWLOLLIS/MPH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 040397

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: LETTERS OF CONDOLENCES DELIVERED TO NIGERIAN
EMBASSY

REFS: A) STATE 37538, B) STATE 37570, C) LAGOS 1891,
D) STATE 38023

1. WE (AF/W) DELIVERED SIGNED ORIGINALS OF LETTERS OF
CONDOLENCE FROM PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER
(REFS A & B) TO AMBASSADOR SANU AND DCM OBE FEBRUARY 18.
WE TOOK OCCASION TO SAY THAT US BELIEVED SPEED WITH WHICH
NIGERIA RECOVERING FROM ATTEMPTED COUP, AND PROMPTNESS
WITH WHICH NEW HEAD OF STATE DESIGNATED, DEMONSTRATED
VIABILITY OF NIGERIA'S INSTITUTIONS. WE SAID THAT THE US
DID NOT PROPOSE TO ALLOW THE ATTEMPTED COUP TO INTERRUPT
THE FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF US-NIGERIAN RELATIONS IN ALL
FIELDS. SANU INTERJECTED AT THIS POINT QUOTE I HOPE SO
UNQUOTE. WE WENT ON TO SAY THAT SECRETARY ROBINSON STILL
PLANNED TO VISIT NIGERIA ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD DEPEND ON
WHETHER OR NOT THE AIRPORTS WERE OPEN. SANU SAID THAT, AS
WE KNEW, HE HAD PLANNED TO BE IN LAGOS DURING THE UNDER
SECRETARY'S VISIT, BUT HE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO
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REMAIN AT HIS POST IN WASHINGTON. WE ASKED IF HE KNEW

THE IDENTITY OF COUP PLOTTERS APART FROM DIMKA. HE SAID HE DID NOT BUT NOTED THAT ARRESTS AND INTERROGATIONS WERE CONTINUING. HE SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FMG REPORTING PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATIONS WHICH WE HAD NOT YET SEEN.

2. WE THANKED SANU FOR NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT PLANE THAT TOOK WCT PLAYERS TO ACCRA. SANU REPLIED THAT WCT SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO PLAY DURING PERIOD OF NATIONAL MOURNING. WE SAID WE UNDERSTOOD THAT LLTC HAD BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO RESUME PLAY BY APPROPRIATE MINISTRY. SANU CLEARLY DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS.

3. ASSISTANT CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AND THREE OFFICERS FROM AF SIGNED CONDOLENCE BOOK AT NIGERIAN EMBASSY FEBRUARY 19. DCM OBE WAS TOLD THEN THAT UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON HAS CANCELLED NIGERIAN VISIT AT REQUEST OF MEA.

4. SANU'S MOOD ON BOTH DAYS WAS SUBDUED AND SOMBER IN MARKED CONTRAST TO HIS CUSTOMARY GOOD HUMOR.

5. COPIES OF LETTERS SIGNED BY PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER ABOUT DEATH OF GENERAL MUHAMMED RPT MUHAMMED HAVE BEEN POUCHED.

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